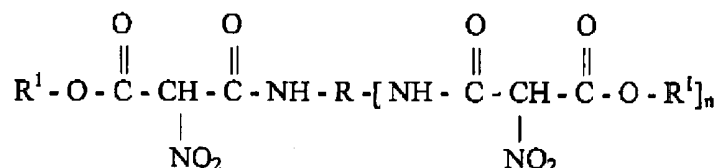


Amendments to Claims

Claim 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): A compound having the formula



where

R is an unsubstituted or a substituted alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, or aromatic group or is derived from an aromatic or aliphatic residue of an isocyanate, diisocyanate, or polyisocyanate compound;

n is 1-10; and

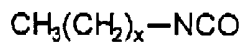
R<sup>1</sup> is a branched or unbranched alkyl.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A nitrile oxide precursor compound according to Claim 1 where R is substituted with alkyl, sulfate, sulfonate, alkoxy, CN, NO<sub>2</sub> or an aromatic group.

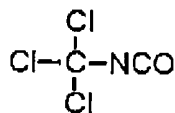
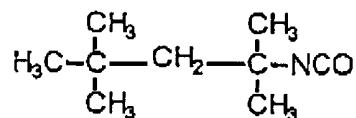
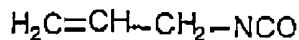
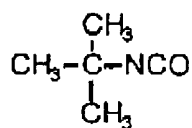
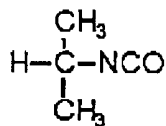
Claim 18 (previously presented): The compound of claim 1 where R is a biphenyl group, fused rings or repeating aromatic groups.

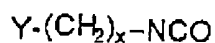
Claim 19 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 where R is or residue of an isocyanate, diisocyanate, or polyisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of:



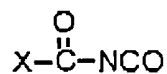


where x is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 or 17

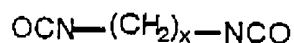
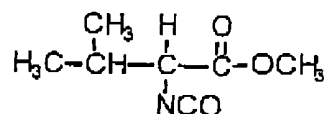
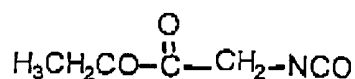




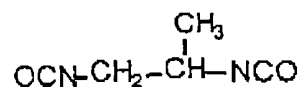
where Y is Br or Cl and x is 2 or 3

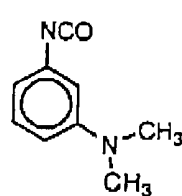
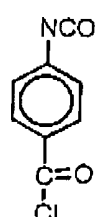
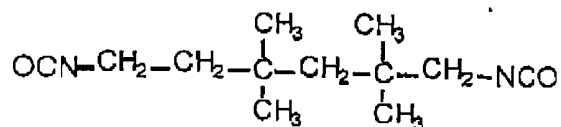
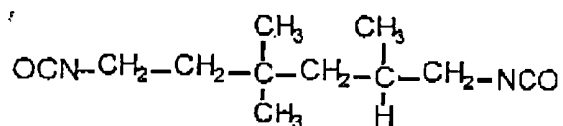
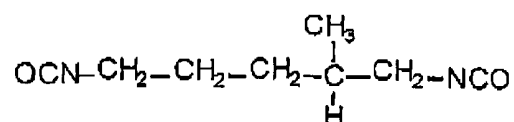
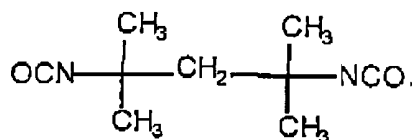


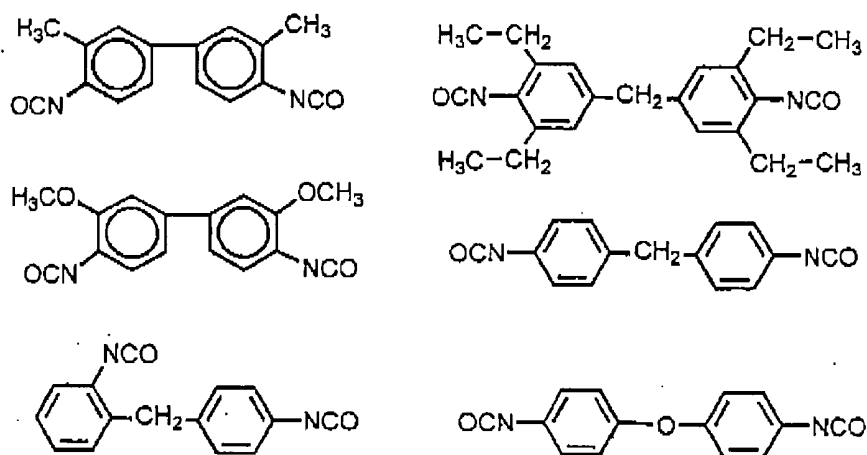
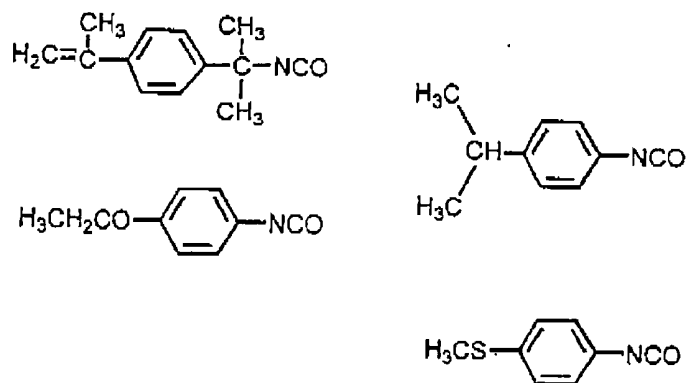
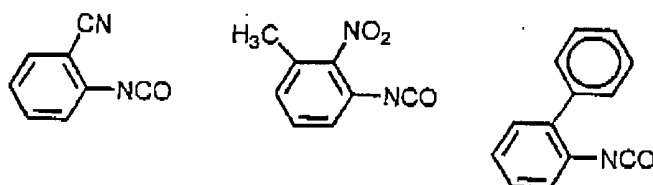
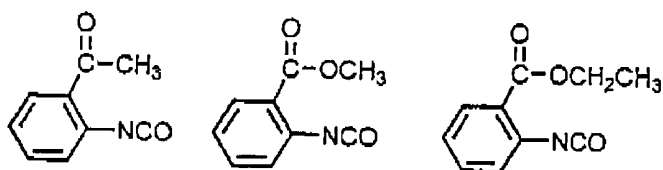
where X is CH<sub>3</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>C-, ClH<sub>2</sub>C-, Cl<sub>3</sub>C-, H<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO- or Cl

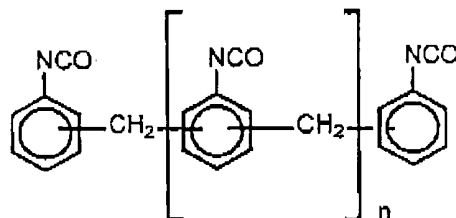


where x is 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12

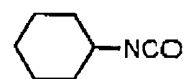
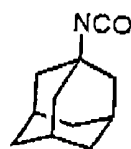
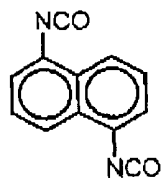
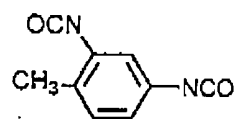
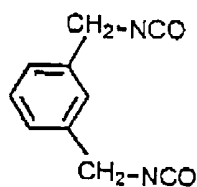
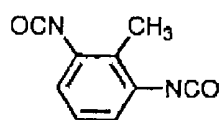
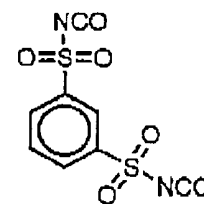
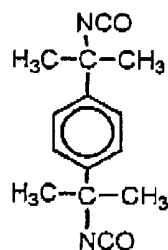
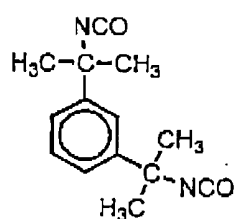


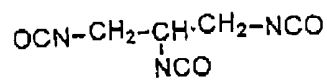
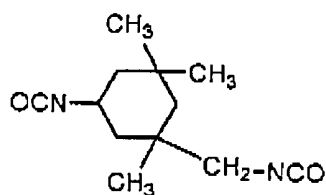
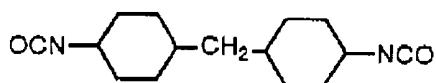
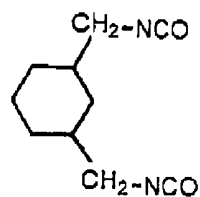
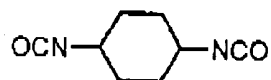
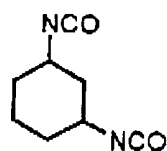
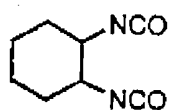


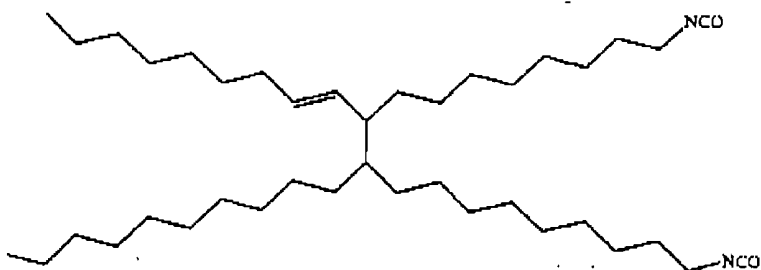
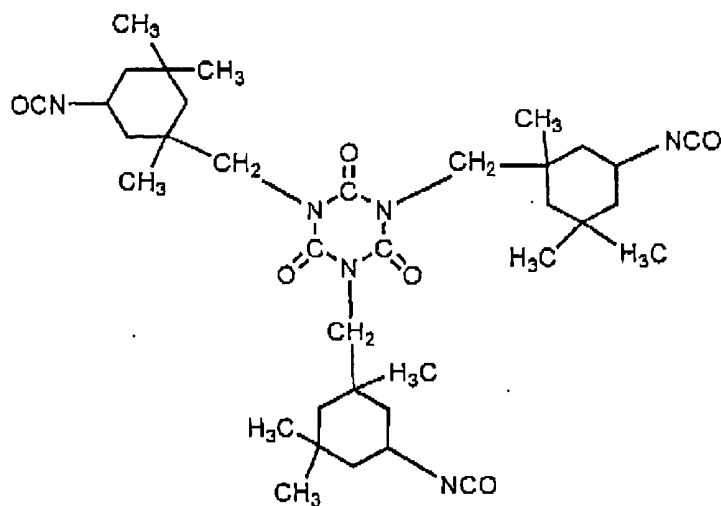




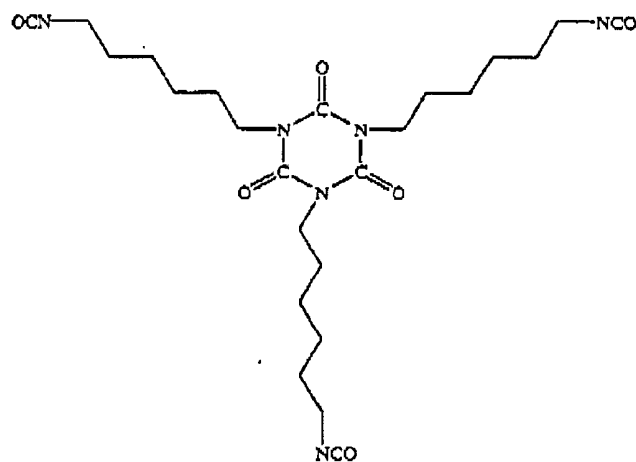
where n is 2, 3 or 4





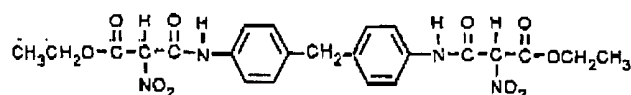
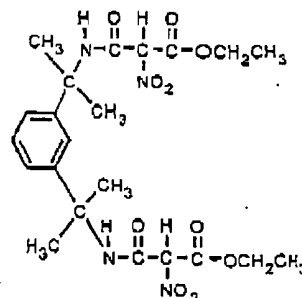
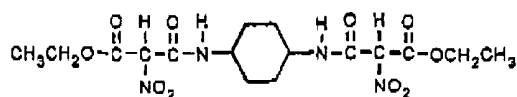
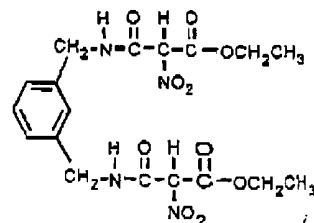
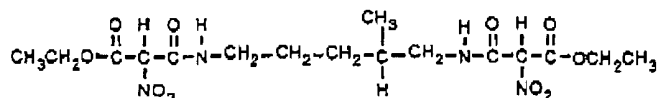
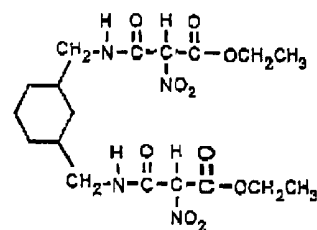
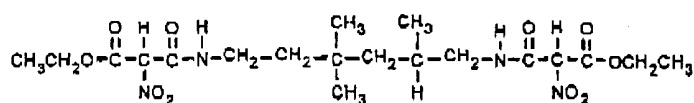


and









Claim 23 (currently amended): A process for the generation of a nitrile oxide precursor compound comprising the steps of

- generating a potassium enolate of ethyl nitroacetate in situ;
- isolating said enolate; and
- adding to said isolated enolate an isocyanate, diisocyanate or polyisocyanate material in a polar aprotic solvent.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): The process of Claim 24 wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of diglyme, monoglyme, glyme, THF, DMF and ~~DMSO~~ tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulfoxide.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A process for crosslinking a polymer composition comprising adding the compound of claim 1 to a ~~polymer~~ solution of a polymer comprises one or more pendant or terminal functional groups selected from the group consisting of alkenes, alkynes, nitriles and isocyanates and heating the mixture to form a nitrile oxide in situ and a crosslinked polymer.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): A urethane composition which is stable to temperatures below 120°C comprising the compound of claim 1.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A pressure sensitive adhesive, reactive hot melt adhesive, polyurethane dispersion, thermosetting adhesive, thermoplastic adhesive or coating comprising the compound of claim 1.

Claim 30 (currently amended): An AB copolymer where A comprises a compound of claim 19 which is derived from 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene ("m-TMI") and B is a an unsaturated compound ~~with olefinic functionality~~.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A polyurethane reactive hot melt adhesive comprising a compound of claim 1.